

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NASA-01 SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /133 W
-----120201 222101Z /72

O 221829Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9688

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00615

FOR NSC:HUBERMAN
DOD/OSD:SLOCOMB
NASA:TERRELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, UN
SUBJECT: UN OUTER SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMM-
ITTEE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1978; AGENDA ITEM 4.

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET'S AND EE'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NOTION
OF CLASSIFYING REMOTELY SENSED DATA ACCORDING TO SPATIAL
RESOLUTION AS BASIS FOR EVENTUAL CONTROLS OVER DISSEM-
INATION OF HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
HAVE SUGGESTED LIMITATIONS ON DISSEMINATION OF ANALYZED
INFO DEVISED FROM REMOTELY SENSED DATA; USSR ADVOCATES
LIMITATION EVEN ON USE OF SUCH INFORMATION BY ANY ONE WITH-
OUT CONSENT OF SENSED STATE. US DELEGATION TOOK STRONG
EXCEPTION TO THIS TREND TOWARD CONSTRAINTS ON USE AND
DISSEMINATION OF ANALYZED INFORMATION.

2. USSR, FOLLOWED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GDR, POLAND AND
MONGOLIA RECITED DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES
IN REMOTE SENSING. ALL SUPPORTED PERSISTENT SOVIET
PROPOSAL TO LIMIT DISSEMINATION OF DATA ON BASIS OF
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SPATIAL RESOLUTION. MONGOLIA SPOKE AGAIN OF RELATION-
SHIP TO PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER RESOURCES AND OVER
INFORMATION ON RESOURCES.

3. JAPAN ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO BUILD LANDSAT GROUND
STATION; STATED THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO DECIDE ON
CONTROLLING THE DISSEMINATION OF DATA ON THE BASIS OF

SPATIAL RESOLUTION -- MORE EXPERIENCE WITH REMOTE SENSING IS NEEDED.

4. CANADA NOTED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE QUESTION OF SPATIAL RESOLUTION AND THE ABSENCE OF A SIMPLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLASSIFICATION OF DATA. CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO PRACTICAL SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL BASIS WHICH DATA CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS GLOBAL, REGIONAL OR LOCAL AS THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED. MOREOVER, CANADA DOES NOT FEEL THE NEED FOR SUCH CLASSIFICATION.

5. CANADA CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED OVER MATTERS OF COORDINATING EFFORTS OF COUNTRIES IN REMOTE SENSING. PROPOSED THE CONCEPT OF A SYSTEM, SIMILAR TO WORLD WEATHER WATCH OF WMO, IN WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD OPERATE NATIONAL SYSTEMS BUT COORDINATE THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE BODY SUCH AS THE UN. REITERATED NEED TO AVOID OPERATIONAL OR REGULATORY ROLE FOR UN IN THIS FIELD.

6. CANADA ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF THEIR SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE PROGRAM SURSAT. ALSO EXPECTS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN SEASAT; THEY WILL HAVE AN INSTRUMENTAL AIRPLANE TO MAKE VALIDATION AND ADDITIONAL MEASUREMENTS.

7. CANADA STATED THAT THEY HAVE GAINED CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN REMOTE SENSING GROUND STATION OPERATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO ANY COUNTRY INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A LANDSAT GROUND STATION.

8. ROMANIA, TAKING FLOOR FOR FIRST TIME THIS SESSION, GAVE GENERAL REMARKS REVIEWING ROMANIAN SPACE ACTIVITIES. STATED NEED FOR REAL TIME DATA RECEPTION; THEREFORE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BUILD A REMOTE SENSING GROUND STATION AND PROCESSING CENTER FROM AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN EARLY 1980.

9. ROMANIA MADE NO REFERENCE TO COSMOS INCIDENT AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, NOTED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA IS EXPANDING. EXHORTED STSC TO BE SELECTIVE IN CHOOSING FOR DEBATE THOSE MATTERS OF GREATEST OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COUNTRIES. REMOTE SENSING WAS STATED TO BE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY. THE ALLOCATION OF ONLY THREE MEETINGS TO THIS SUBJECT WAS SAID TO BE INADEQUATE.

10. ROMANIA CONGRATULATED COSPAR FOR THEIR REPORT ON SPATIAL RESOLUTION AND REMINDED THE STSC THAT ROMANIA DELEGATION LAST YEAR PREDICTED THE EXTREME COMPLEXITY

ENCOUNTERED. STATED THAT IN THEIR VIEW HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED UNLESS SENSED STATE APPROVES. HOWEVER, HE THEN WENT ON TO POINT OUT THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION THAT COUNTRIES MUST HAVE TIMELY ACCESS TO DATA ON THEIR OWN COUNTRY IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES.

11. ARGENTINA NOTED ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS TO CONSTRUCT LANDSAT GROUND STATION SAYING IT WILL PROVIDE DATA TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS SELECTED BY NASA AND CNIE. ARGENTINA WILL ADHERE TO PRINCIPLE THAT

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ANY COUNTRY MAY RESTRICT THE DISSEMINATION OF DATA CONCERNING ITS RESOURCES. EFFECTIVE CONTROLS ON DISSEMINATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES IS IMPORTANT. (US DEL FOLLOWING UP WITH ARGENTINE DEL APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS IN THIS DECLARATION AND ESSENCE OF AGREEMENT ARGENTINA HAS SIGNED FOR USE OF LANDSAT. RESULTS TO BE REPORTED SEPTEL).

12. PAKISTAN REITERATED SUPPORT OF OPEN DATA DISSEMINATION.

13. SWEDEN, AFTER REVIEWING BRIEFLY ITS REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES IN LAND USE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE, REMINDED SUBCOMMITTEE OF

DEFINITION OF PRIMARY DATA AND PROCESSED INFORMATION
AGREED UPON LAST YEAR. SUPPORTED CONCEPT OF PANEL OF
EXPERTS TO COORDINATE OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS.

14. FRG ADVOCATED FREE DISSEMINATION OF PRIMARY DATA
BUT STATED THAT IN THE CASE OF DISSEMINATION OF ANALYZED
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INFORMATION RESULTING FROM REMOTE SENSING A QUOTE
DIFFERENT RESULT SHOULD BE OBTAINED. UNQUOTE.

15. UNDRO, AFTER A PRESENTATION RELATING MAINLY TO
REMOTE SENSING, STATED THAT UNDRO IN COLLABORATION WITH
IAEA SHOULD BE THE FOCUS FOR COORDINATION EFFORTS AMONG
COUNTRIES IN CASES SUCH AS THE RE-ENTRY OF A HAZARDOUS
SPACE OBJECT INVOLVING NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

16. USSR STATED THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD PLAY A COORDINATING
ROLE IN SPACE MATTERS. WITH RESPECT TO DATA DISSEMINATION,
USSR ADVOCATES THE SETTING OF LEGAL NORMS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE BASED ON SPATIAL RESOLUTION AS KEY
CRITERION. REITERATED SOVIET PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT
DISSEMINATION OF DATA WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOLUTION OF
50 METERS OR BETTER.

17. USSR STATED THAT PROCESSED DATA CONTAINING NEW INFOR-
MATION ON NATIONAL RESOURCES OF A COUNTRY SHOULD BE
NEITHER DISSEMINATED NOR PUT TO USE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF
THE SENSED STATE.

18. US REVIEWED SIX YEARS USE OF LANDSAT, NUMEROUS BENE-
FICIAL RESULTS, NOTED CONSISTENT PRACTICE OF OPEN
DISSEMINATION WITH WIDE USE AND REPLIED SHARPLY TO THE
EFFECT THAT ANALYZED INFORMATION IS PRODUCT OF INTELLECTUAL
EFFORT USING VARIETY OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION. NO INTER-
NATIONAL LAW OR PRACTICE PERMITS RESTRICTION OF A
PERSONS USE OF HIS WORK PRODUCT AND NO LEGAL BASIS IS
KNOWN TO EXIST FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, SUCH
RESTRICTIONS WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY DETERIORATE THE UTILITY
OF REMOTE SENSING AS A TOOL IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

19. COMMENT: AS DEBATE PROCEEDS ON SPECIFIC AGENDA
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ITEMS, DELEGATIONS ARE BEING SUPPLEMENTED BY EXPERTS.
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSONNEL HERE ARE OFTEN TOTALLY
NEW AND WITHOUT ANY CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS. CAMEROON, FOR

EXAMPLE, IS INSTRUCTED TO ATTEND AND REPORT. NIGERIAN
IS CAPABLE BUT UNINFORMED NEWCOMER AND BRAZIL IS REPRESENTED BY BRIGHT, YOUNG FIREBRAND. CONSEQUENTLY, TEDIOUS
PROCESS OF RESTATING REASONS FOR POSITIONS OF US MUST BE
PERSUED WITH PATIENT TOLERANCE OF A FEW DELEGATIONS
(CANADA, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA AND A FEW OTHERS) WHO HAVE
SEASONED PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE TECHNOLOGY, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780082-0814
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaavde.tel
Line Count: 231
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90779ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3513611
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN OUTER SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMM- ITTEE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1978; AGENDA ITEM 4.
TAGS: TSPA, XX, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90779ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014